

Setsune does not anticipate claims 17-21 because it fails to teach or suggest all limitations of claims 17-21.

With respect to claim 17, Setsune does not teach or suggest a sapphire tool having a sharp edge formed by a working plane and a cleavage plane parallel to the plane R as required. With respect to claim 18 and 19, Setsune does not teach or suggest a semiconductor device having a sapphire substrate having a cleavage plane parallel to the plane R as a side face and a major face on which a semiconductor element is formed. With respect to claims 20 and 21, Setsune does not teach or suggest a sapphire monocrystal plate comprising a major face, or a working reference plane substantially parallel or perpendicular to the plane R. Setsune therefore does not anticipate claims 17-21, nor render them obvious.

Claims 1-8 were rejected as being anticipated by Morita et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,753,966). The applicant submit that Morita does not qualify as prior art with respect to the present application because Morita was filed on December 19, 1996, after the priority date (February 29, 1996) of the present application. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the PTO. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully request that the rejection over Morita be withdrawn. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number 310-282-2000 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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